

Submitter: Robert Emmons
On Behalf Of: LandWatch Lane County
Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1578

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Sen. Nash, Rep. Owens and Skarlatos and Members of the Committee:

Please accept the following testimony on behalf of LandWatch Lane County, the non-profit I head dedicated to the protection of Lane County's farms, forests, natural areas and open space.

I had the good fortune to arrive in Oregon when Tom McCall was governor and SB 100 was born. Oregon largely remains a vital and livable state for both humans and wildlife, because the land use program McCall's and others' hard work and dedication generated has been successful in stopping bald assaults on its strengths and integrity, such as SB 1578. This bill intends to authorize the rezoning of up to 50 acres of farm and forest land for urban density residential development, while waiving compliance with State planning laws. It would also allow accessory dwelling units of up to 2500 sq ft for all existing homes in EFU zones. Housing not associated with farming and forestry does not belong outside UGBs on our resource lands.

SB 1578 defies the intent and purpose and practice of our land use regulation, but land use protection is only as strong as its supporters and enforcers. We ask that you honor McCall's legacy and the state's good fortune by soundly denying yet another bill exploiting the short session to push through legislation that would have huge and unnecessary consequences for the protection of our farm and forest land.

Thank you.

Robert Emmons, President
LandWatch Lane County